GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:979
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000
SUPPLY OF WHEAT AND RICE UNDER PDS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-procurement of paddy by FCI has compelled the farmers to shift over to other crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the demand for wheat and rice has considerably come down in Public Distribution System due to supply of inferior quality items compared to open market;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to procure more paddy in all the States to help the farmers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) No, Sir. No such reports have been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e) : The procurement operations are carried out by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in association with State Governments and their agencies under price support scheme of the Government. Sufficient number of purchase centres are opened by FCI in consultation with the State Governments, well in advance, before commencement of each marketing season, to avoid distress sale and inconvenience to the farmers. The total quantity of paddy procured during the current Kharif Marketing Season2000-2001 is 101 lakh tones upto 20.11.2000, as compared to 87 lakh tones during the corresponding period last year.